

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.121(b)(1)(ii), please *amend* the specification by replacing the following paragraphs, with markings indicating changes:

[0012] The binding device 12 is, for example, similar to that described in the document FR-2.739.788 and family member US-6,017,050, which will be referred to for a detailed description. This device includes, in the illustrated embodiment, a connection mechanism, in the form of a front jaw 16 in which a transverse front bar 18 of the boot 14 is adapted to be locked to enable the attachment of the boot to the ski by means of articulation about the transverse axis of the bar. For this purpose, this binding device 12 enables the boot heel to be lifted from the ski. The device 12 also includes longitudinally, at the rear of the jaw 16, an elastic return mechanism that includes an articulated connecting rod 20 adapted, for example, to hook a rear bar (not shown) arranged under the sole 22 of the boot 14. Finally, in the rear extension of the connecting rod, i.e., rearward of the connecting rod, the binding device 12 also includes an upwardly projecting guiding edge 24, or rib, the profile of which is complementary to a corresponding downwardly facing groove (shown in cross section in FIG. 2) formed in the boot sole. As shown in FIG. 1, the rib 24 extends longitudinally rearward of the entirety of the mechanism that engages the boot to bind the boot to the ski, that is, rearward of the front bar and rear bar.

[0017] With respect to a ski having a planar, or flat, upper surface, the shoulders can be made in the form of elevated bosses, or they can result from [[a]] an upwardly open recess in the central portion of the ski, this recess thus defining the location of the ski binding device. As can be seen in the cross section view of FIG. 4, the recess defining the binding location 29 is structured and arranged to receive the width of the binding 12 therein.